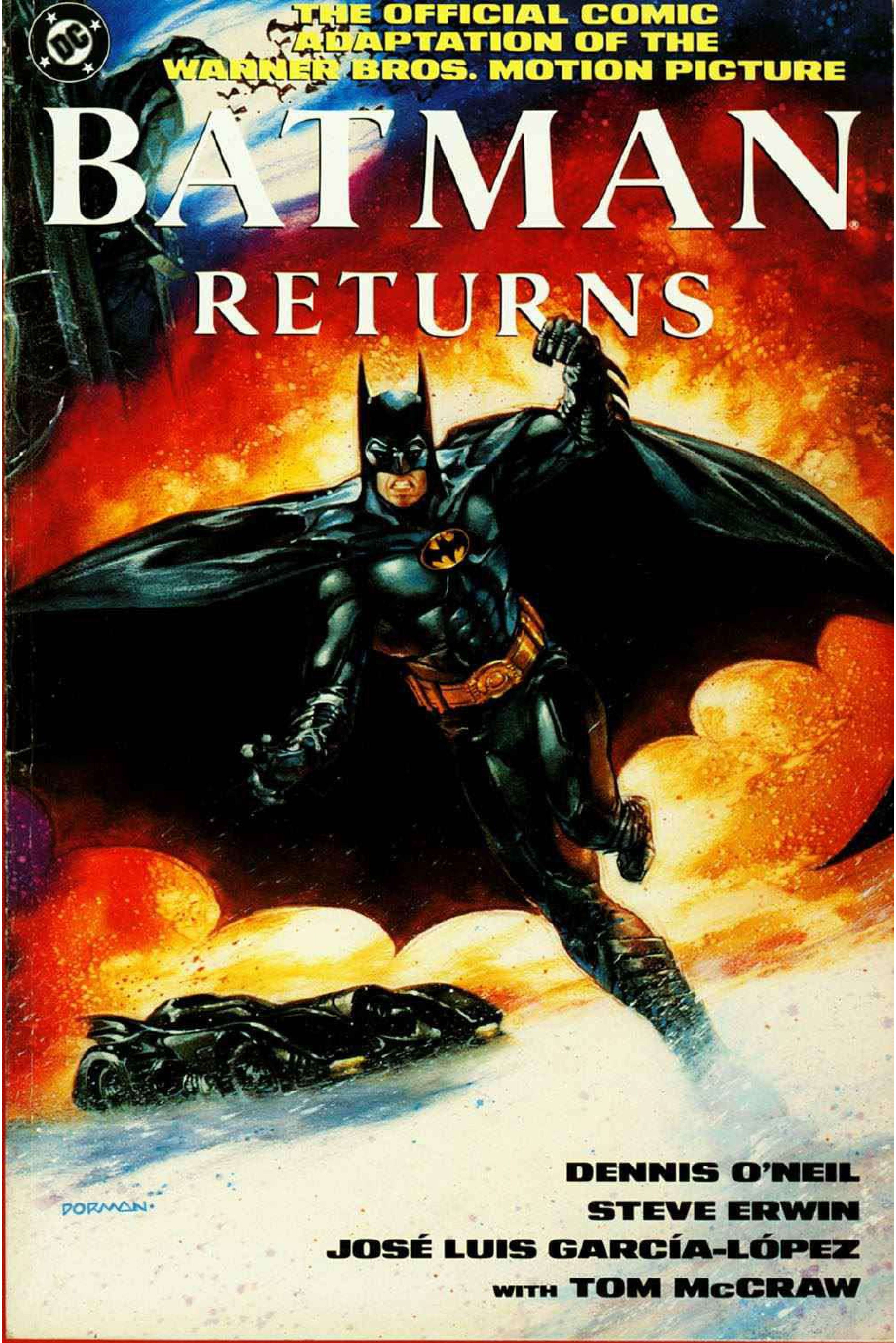
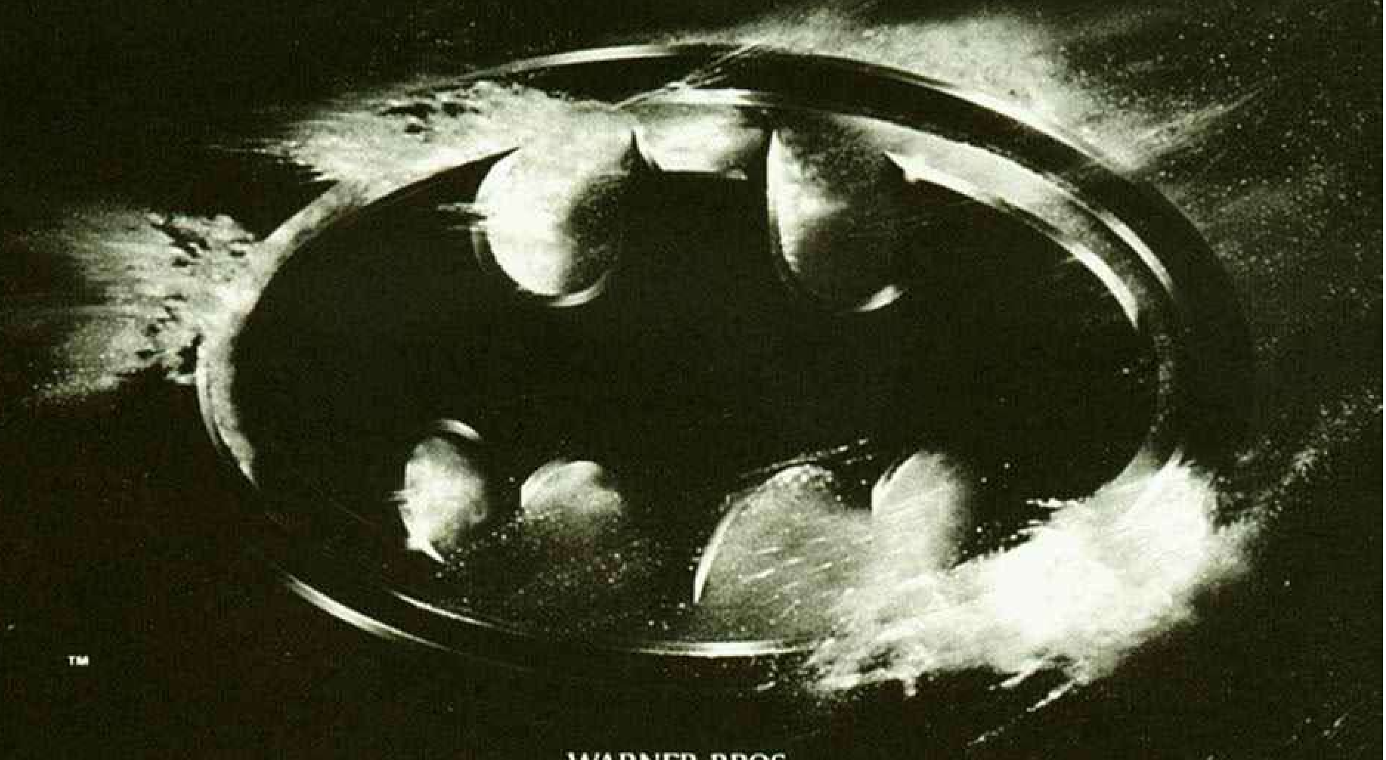

DC
THE OFFICIAL COMIC
ADAPTATION OF THE
WARNER BROS. MOTION PICTURE
BATMAN®
RETURNS
DORMAN
DENNIS O'NEIL
STEVE ERWIN
JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA-LÓPEZ
WITH TOM McCRAW



WARNER BROS. PRESENTS

A TIM BURTON FILM MICHAEL KEATON

DANNY DeVITO MICHELLE PFEIFFER "BATMAN RETURNS" AND CHRISTOPHER WALKEN

MICHAEL GOUGH PAT HINGLE MICHAEL MURPHY MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN CO-PRODUCER LARRY FRANCO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JON PETERS, PETER GUBER, BENJAMIN MELNIKER, MICHAEL USLAN

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SCREENPLAY BY DANIEL WATERS PRODUCED BY DENISE DI NOVI TIM BURTON DIRECTED BY TIM BURTON

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THE COMIC ADAPTATION

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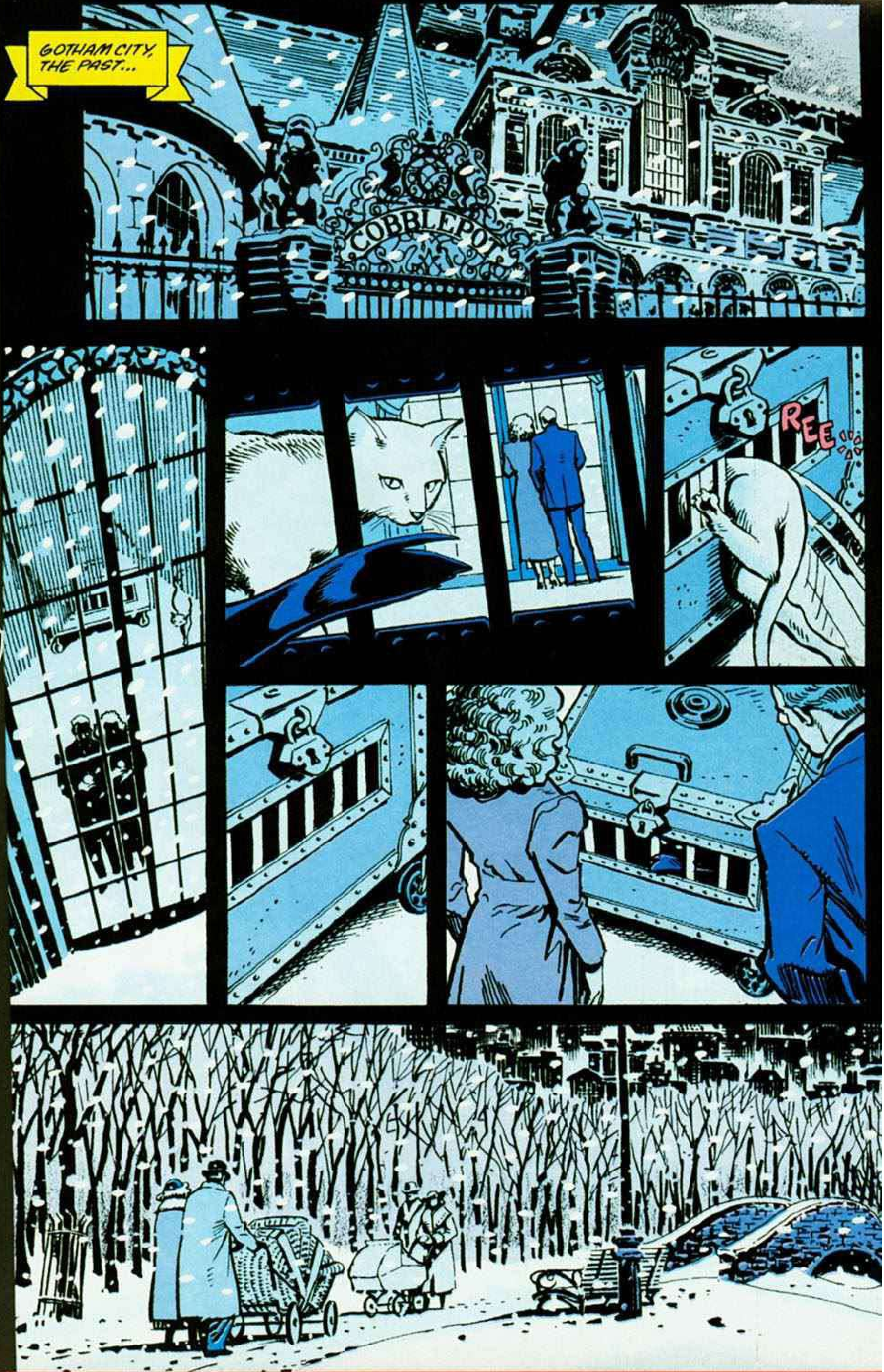
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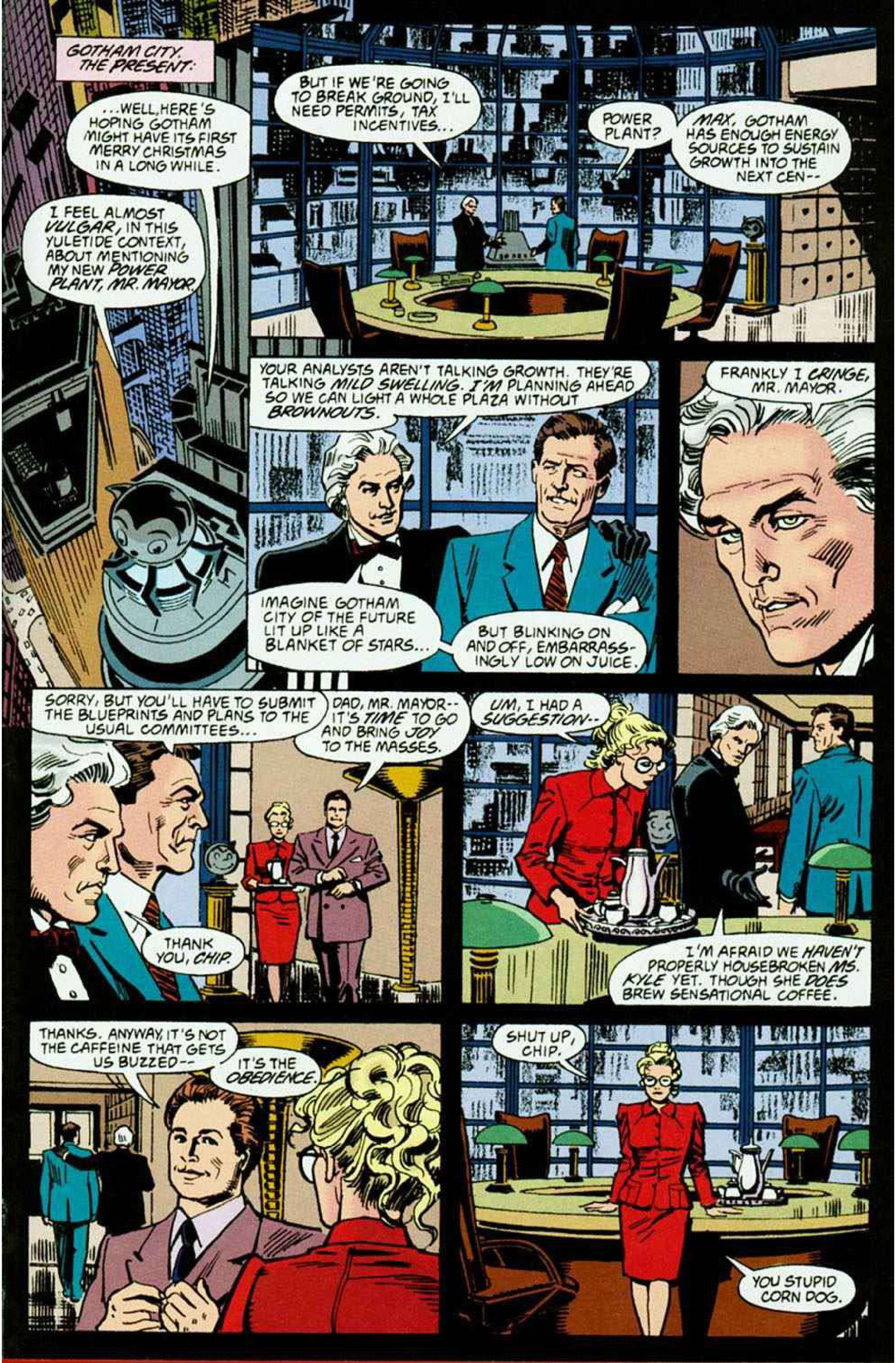
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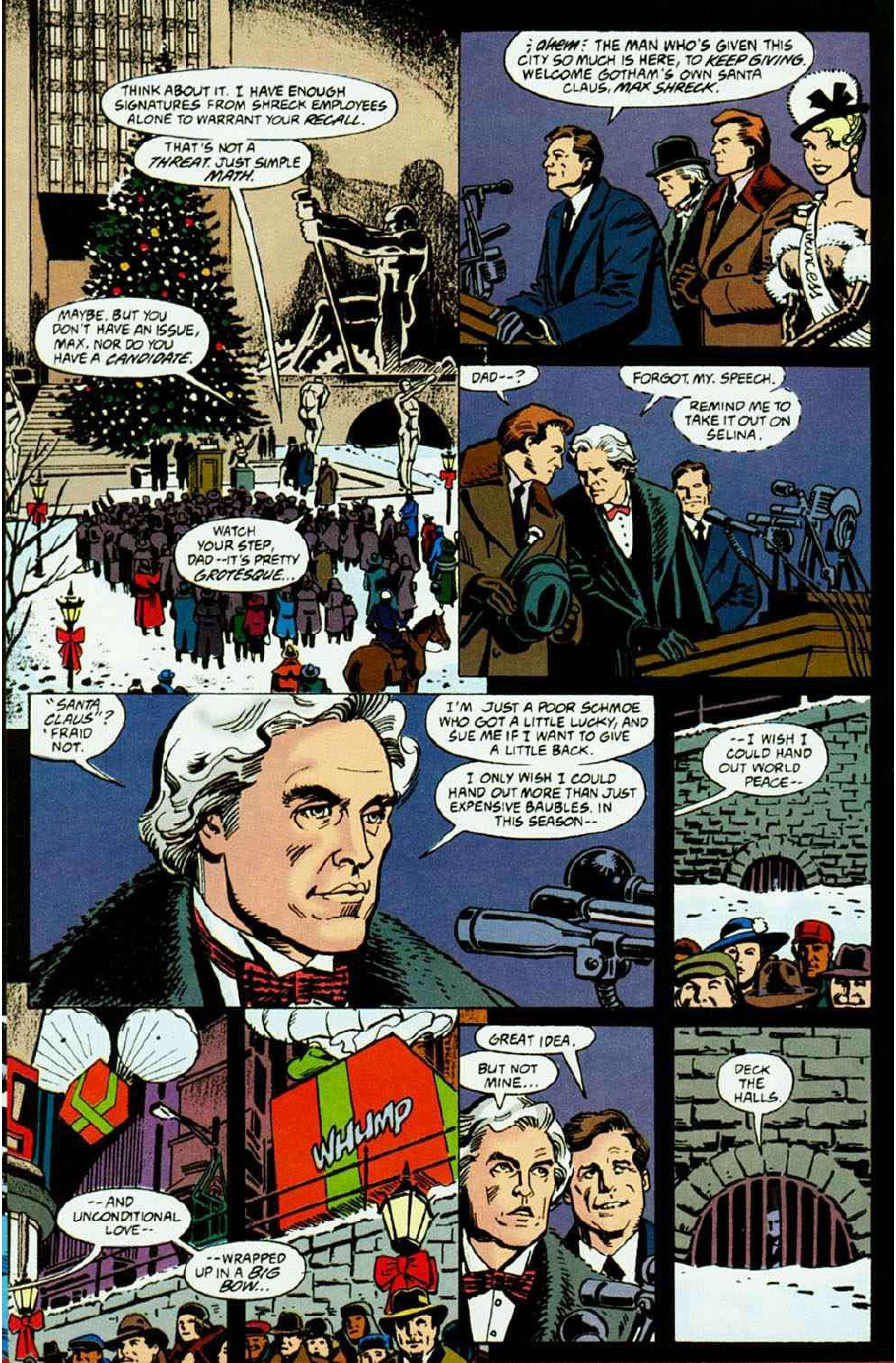
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GOTHAM CITY, THE PAST...
COBBLEPOT
REEE




GOTHAM CITY, THE PRESENT:
...WELL, HERE'S HOPING GOTHAM MIGHT HAVE ITS FIRST MERRY CHRISTMAS IN A LONG WHILE.
I FEEL ALMOST VULGAR, IN THIS YULETIDE CONTEXT, ABOUT MENTIONING MY NEW POWER PLANT, MR. MAYOR.
BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO BREAK GROUND, I'LL NEED PERMITS, TAX INCENTIVES...
POWER PLANT?
MAX, GOTHAM HAS ENOUGH ENERGY SOURCES TO SUSTAIN GROWTH INTO THE NEXT CEN--
YOUR ANALYSTS AREN'T TALKING GROWTH. THEY'RE TALKING MILD SWELLING. I'M PLANNING AHEAD SO WE CAN LIGHT A WHOLE PLAZA WITHOUT BROWNOUTS.
IMAGINE GOTHAM CITY OF THE FUTURE LIT UP LIKE A BLANKET OF STARS...
BUT BLINKING ON AND OFF, EMBARRASS-INGLY LOW ON JUICE.
FRANKLY I CRINGE, MR. MAYOR.
SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SUBMIT THE BLUEPRINTS AND PLANS TO THE USUAL COMMITTEES...
THANK YOU, CHIP.
DAD, MR. MAYOR-- IT'S TIME TO GO AND BRING JOY TO THE MASSES.
UM, I HAD A SUGGESTION--
I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T PROPERLY HOUSEBROKEN MS. KYLE YET. THOUGH SHE DOES BREW SENSATIONAL COFFEE.
THANKS. ANYWAY, IT'S NOT THE CAFFEINE THAT GETS US BUZZED--
IT'S THE OBEDIENCE.
SHUT UP, CHIP.
YOU STUPID CORN DOG.


THINK ABOUT IT. I HAVE ENOUGH SIGNATURES FROM SHRECK EMPLOYEES ALONE TO WARRANT YOUR RECALL.
THAT'S NOT A THREAT. JUST SIMPLE MATH.
MAYBE. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE AN ISSUE, MAX. NOR DO YOU HAVE A CANDIDATE.
WATCH YOUR STEP, DAD--IT'S PRETTY GROTESQUE...
;AHEM: THE MAN WHO'S GIVEN THIS CITY SO MUCH IS HERE, TO KEEP GIVING. WELCOME GOTHAM'S OWN SANTA CLAUS, MAX SHRECK.
DAD--?
FORGOT. MY. SPEECH.
REMIND ME TO TAKE IT OUT ON SELINA.
"SANTA CLAUS"? 'FRAID NOT.
I'M JUST A POOR SCHMOE WHO GOT A LITTLE LUCKY, AND SUE ME IF I WANT TO GIVE A LITTLE BACK.
I ONLY WISH I COULD HAND OUT MORE THAN JUST EXPENSIVE BAUBLES. IN THIS SEASON--
--I WISH I COULD HAND OUT WORLD PEACE--
--AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE--
WHUMP
--WRAPPED UP IN A BIG BOW...
GREAT IDEA.
BUT NOT MINE...
DECK THE HALLS.


KRASH
RRIPP
WATCH OUT--!
REEEEEE
MR. SHRECK-- MR. SHRECK!
YOU FORGOT YOUR SPEECH...
UGHHHH!
VROOOM!
RUN! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
WELL?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
THE SIGNAL!
OOH, BATMAN. I'M TREMBLIN'...


P-TING!
KEESH!
P-TING!
RAT-A-TAT-A-TAT
TAKE THAT, TANNENBAUM!
RELAX. WE JUST CAME FOR THE GUY WHO RUNS THE SHOW.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
NOT YOU, SHRECK.
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME!
ALL THIS COURAGE. GOOSE-BUMP-CITY.
DAD! SAVE YOURSELF!
THOK
THOK
SLAM!


BLAM
BLAM!
BLAM!
OOFFF!
WHOA!
SCREEEEECH
FWOOOSH
FWOOOSH
PLEASE--WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T RUIN MY SHOES. MY BODY WILL HEAL, BUT THIS WAS THE LAST PAIR IN MY SIZE!
SHEESH! ALL THESE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS--
--AND I HAD TO PICK YOU. SHUT UP!
LISTEN UP, MR. MAN-BAT! YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP CLOSER AND I'LL--
SURE.
HEH! NICE SHOT, MISTER...
CRACK!


WOW. THE BATMAN.
OR IS IT JUST "BATMAN"?
YOUR CHOICE OF COURSE.
GOTTA GO.
WELL. THAT WAS... VERY BRIEF. LIKE MOST MEN IN MY LIFE.
AND NEARBY...
HUFF HUFF
I--I MUST'VE LOST THEM. I--
YAAAHH!
CLANK!
GOTHAM CITY
HONEY, I'M HOME.
OH, I FORGOT. I'M NOT MARRIED.
AH, MISS KITTY. WHAT DID YOU JUST PURR? "HOW CAN ANYONE BE SO PATHETIC?"
YES, TO YOU I SEEM PATHETIC--
--BUT I'M A WORKING GIRL, GOTTA PAY THE RENT.
MAYBE IF YOU WERE CHIPPING IN 'STEAD OF STEPPING OUT...



SELINA, ABOUT THAT CHRISTMAS GETAWAY WE PLANNED? I'LL BE GOING ALONE. DR. SHAW SAYS I NEED TO BE MY OWN PERSON NOW AND NOT AN APPENDAGE.
THE PARTY NEVER STOPS ON SELINA KYLE'S ANSWERING MACHINE.
GUESS I SHOULD'VE LET HIM WIN THAT RACQUETBALL GAME.
SELINA, THIS IS YOURSELF CALLING TO REMIND YOU TO BRING HOME THE BRUCE WAYNE FILE, BECAUSE THE MEETING'S WEDNESDAY--
--AND MAX SLAVEMASTER WANTS EVERY PERTINENT FACT AT YOUR LOVELY TAPERED FINGERTIPS.
THE FILE!
YOU STUPID CORN DOG. CORN DOG!
THE OLD GOTHAM ZOO, DEEP WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE DECREPIT ARCTIC WORLD PAVILION--
--WHERE A CAPTURED MAX SHRECK STRUGGLES TO FIND THE VOICE TO SCREAM...
--RESTING COMFORTABLY AND DYING FROM THE CARCINOGENS YOU'VE PERSONALLY SPEWED IN A LIFETIME OF PROFITEERING. TRAGIC IRONY OR POETIC JUSTICE?
FWOOSH
YOU TELL ME.
MY GOD, IT'S TRUE! THE PENGUIN-MAN OF THE SEWERS! DON'T KI-
I BELIEVE THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS A-A-A-A-G-H!
ACTUALLY, THIS IS ALL JUST A BAD DREAM. YOU'RE HOME IN BED--
QUIET, MAX. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS --A CONVERSATION?
I'VE BEEN LINGERING DOWN HERE TOO LONG. IT'S HIGH TIME FOR ME TO ASCEND. WITH YOUR KNOW-HOW, YOUR SAVVY, YOUR ACUMEN--
AND EXACTLY WHY AM I GONNA HELP YOU?
WHAT ABOUT DOCUMENTS THAT PROVE YOU OWN HALF THE FIRETRAPS IN GOTHAM?
IF THEY EXISTED I WOULD HAVE SEEN TO IT THEY WERE SHREDDED.
A LOT OF TAPE AND A LITTLE PATIENCE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.


BY THE WAY, HOW'S FRED ADKINS, YOUR OLD PARTNER?
FRED?
FRED!
HE'S... ACTUALLY, HE'S ON AN EXTENDED VACATION AND--
HI, MAX--REMEMBER ME? I'M FRED'S HAND.
REMEMBER, MAX...
YOU FLUSH IT, I FLAUNT IT.
YOU KNOW WHAT, MR.... PENGUIN, SIR? I THINK I COULD ORCHESTRATE A WELCOME HOME SCENARIO FOR YOU. THEN PERHAPS WE COULD SCRATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS.
YOU WON'T REGRET THIS, MR. SHRECK.
HA HA HA HA HA HA
GOTHAM PLAZA, NEXT DAY:
...BUT I TELL YOU THIS, NOT JUST AS AN OFFICIAL--
--BUT AS A HUSBAND AND A FATHER: LAST NIGHT'S ERUPTION OF LAWLESSNESS...
...WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
OH!!
I'M NOT ONE FOR SPEECHES, SO I'LL JUST SAY "THANKS".


HEY! OW!!
WHAM BAM CRACK
STAND BACK!
MY GOD, LOOK!
...THAT'S HIM: THE SHADOWY, RUMORED PENGUIN-MAN OF THE SEWERS ARISEN.
BUT NOW THIS BASHFUL MAN-BEAST CAN PROUDLY TAKE A PLACE ALONGSIDE OUR LEGENDARY BATMAN.
GOTHAM'S LEADING CITIZEN, MAX SHRECK, WAS ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION IN GOTHAM PLAZA.
ALL I WANT IN RETURN IS THE CHANCE TO FIND MY PARENTS... AND FIND OUT WHY THEY DID WHAT THEY DID--
--TO A CHILD WHO WAS DIFFERENT.
SOMETHING WRONG?
NO, NOTHING, AH--
HIS PARENTS...
I HOPE HE FINDS THEM.
THE HALL OF RECORDS:
MR. PENGUIN IS NOT TO BE DISTURBED.
BUT THIS IS A PUBLIC PLACE! WHAT ABOUT FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOM?
WHAT ABOUT THE FREEDOM TO REDISCOVER YOUR ROOTS IN PRIVACY?
WHAT'S THE DEAL, MR. SHRECK? HE A PERSONAL FRIEND--?


YES, HE'S A FRIEND.
OF THE WHOLE CITY.
THE CITY'S BEEN NOTICEABLY QUIET, YET YOU STILL PATROL.
THE RED TRIANGLE CIRCUS GANG ARE JACKALS, ALFRED. THEY HUNT IN PACKS AT NIGHT.
ARE YOU ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THAT STRANGE PENGUIN PERSON?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK...
"MAYBE I AM A BIT CONCERNED."
TUCKER COBBLEPOT
DEVOTED HUSBAND
ESTHER COBBLEPOT
BELOVED WIFE
COBBLEPOT
EXTRA! EXTRA! PENGUIN FORGIVES PARENTS
--IS AT PEACE WITH HIMSELF AND WORLD!
HE'S LIKE A FROG THAT BECAME A PRINCE...
HE MAKES YOU REMEMBER THE TRUE MEANING OF THE HOLIDAY...


WORKING LATE?
I'M TOUCHED.
NO, I AM.
I'M BONING UP FOR YOUR YOUR BRUCE WAYNE MEETING. IT'S ALL VERY INTER-ESTING, THOUGH A BIT ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE.
I MEAN, HOW THE POWER PLANT IS A POWER PLANT IN NAME ONLY--
--SINCE IT'S GONNA BE ONE GIANT CAPACITOR.
INSTEAD OF GENERATING POWER IT'LL BE SUCKING POWER FROM GOTHAM AND STORING IT.
HOW INDUSTRIOUS. YOU OPENED PROTECTED FILES.
AND WHO... WOULD YOU SAY THIS TO?
WELL... UM... NOBODY--?
WHAT DID CURIOSITY DO TO THE CAT?
I'M NO CAT. I'M JUST AN ASSISTANT. A SECRETARY--
AND A VERY, VERY GOOD ONE.
TOO GOOD?
GO AHEAD. BULLY ME IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BIG. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN KILL ME--
ACTUALLY, IT'S A LOT LIKE THAT.
FOR A SECOND, YOU REALLY FRIGHTENED--
CRASHH
WHAK
WHUD
RRRRPP
FWUMP!


CHIP?!?
I...IT WAS TERRIBLE! I LEANED OVER--
--AND ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED HER OUT...
SHE JUMPED.
HELP ME... SOMEONE... MISS KITTY...
SHE'S BEEN DEPRESSED.
YES. YES!
BOYFRIEND TROUBLE--?
STRESS.
MISS KITTY...?


HELLO THERE
CRAK!
THOK!
SMASH
THUD!
FWUMP
CRASHH
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, MISS KITTY, BUT I FEEL...
SO.
MUCH.
YUMMIER.
THE NEXT DAY:
I HOPE NOTHING 'ICKY' HAPPENED TO HER. DEVOURED BY STRAY REINDEER OR--
BRUCE!
HMM. PRIMITIVE VENTILATION.
DAMN THOSE CARNY BOLSHEVIKS THE OTHER NIGHT, THROWING BRICKS AT MY WINDOWS--
NO. NO GLASS ON THE INSIDE.
WEIRD, HUH?
I'D OFFER YOU COFFEE, BUT MY ASSISTANT IS USING HER VACATION TIME.
GOOD TIME. EVERYONE BUT THE BANDITS SEEM TO BE SLACKING OFF TILL AFTER NEW YEAR'S.
NOT SURE I LIKE THE INFERENCE, BRUCE.
I'M PUSHING THIS POWER PLANT NOW ONLY BECAUSE IT'LL COST MORE LATER. A MILLION SAVED IS A MILLION EARNED.
HERE'S THE POINT, MAX...


...THE MAYOR AND I HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN, MAX--AND WE SEE EYE TO EYE.
I COMMISSIONED MY OWN REPORT. GOTHAM CITY HAS A POWER SURPLUS.
SO MY QUESTION IS 'WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE'?
BRUCE, BRUCE. MAYORS COME AND GO.
AND HEIRS TIRE EASY.
REALLY THINK A FLYWEIGHT LIKE YOU COULD LAST 15 ROUNDS WITH MUHAMMED SHRECK?
GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT.
COURSE I DON'T HAVE A CRIME-BOSS LIKE COBBLEPOT IN MY CORNER--
"CRIME BOSS"?
SHOWS WHAT YOU KNOW. OSWALD IS GOTHAM'S NEW GOLDEN BOY.
HE CONTROLS THE RED TRIANGLE GANG. I CAN'T PROVE IT, BUT WE BOTH KNOW IT'S TRUE.
I WON'T STAND FOR MUDSLINGING. IF MY ASSISTANT WERE HERE SHE'D--
...ESCORT HIM WHEREVER HE WANTS.
SELINA!?
THAT'S MY NAME, MAXIMILLIONS...
DON'T WEAR IT OUT. HMM, NICE SUIT.
SELINA, THIS IS BRUCE WAYNE, WHO YOU CAN SHOW OUT.
WE'VE MET.
HAVE WE?
SORRY. I MISTOOK ME FOR SOMEBODY ELSE.
YOU MEAN MISTOOK ME?
DIDN'T I SAY THAT?
YES AND NO...
WHY THE BANDAGED HAND?
ERR--A SKIING ACCIDENT WASN'T IT?
MAYBE THAT BROKEN WINDOW OVER THERE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT... OR NOT. IT'S NOT COMPLETE AMNESIA.
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO DO BUSINESS WITH HIM.
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO TAKE ORDERS.
IT'S A LONG STORY.
I COULD FREE UP SOME TIME.
I'M LISTED.
I'M TEMPTED, SELINA--?
KYLE. RHYMES WITH 'DIAL'.


THE CITY.
LATER THAT NIGHT...
AAGHH! HELP, BAT--
NOW, NOW, PRETTY YOUNG THING. NICE AND EASY AND--
OOPFF!
I JUST LOVE A BIG, STRONG MAN WHO'S NOT AFRAID TO SHOW IT WITH SOMEONE HALF HIS SIZE.
WHO?
BE GENTLE...
IT'S MY FIRST TIME.
KRAK!
SLASH
OH, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! I WAS SO SCARED HE'D--URK!
YOU MAKE IT SO EASY, DON'T YOU?
ALWAYS WAITING FOR SOME BATMAN TO SAVE YOU.
I'M CATWOMAN. HEAR ME ROAR.


MEAN ORDER
MAYOR
THE NEXT DAY:
YES, ADULATION IS A CROSS TO BEAR. BUT SOMEONE'S GOT TO SUPPLANT OUR STANDING-IN-THE-WAY-OF-PROGRESS MAYOR.
BU...WH... I MEAN...
OSWALD COBBLEPOT MAYOR
COBBLEPOT FOR MAYOR
OSWALD MEANS ORDER
"MAYOR"?
MAYOR.
MAX, ELECTIONS HAPPEN IN NOVEMBER. IS THIS NOT LATE DECEMBER?
I'M JEN. STAND STILL WHILE I SLIP ON THESE GLOVE-THINGIES.
I'M JOSH. KEEP THE UMBRELLA! WORKS FOR YOU!
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE MISSED THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED ELECTION.
OSWAL
BUT ELECTED OFFICIALS CAN BE RECALLED, GIVEN THE BOOT!
I CAN SUPPLY SIGNATURES TO OVERTURN THE BALLOT.
BUT WE'LL STILL NEED A PLATFORM.
START GLOBAL COOLING? MAKE THE WORLD A GIANT ICE BOX?
TO GET THE MAYOR RECALLED WE NEED A CATALYST, AN INCIDENT... A TRIGGER.
AH, YOU WANT MY FRIENDS TO DRIVE THE MAYOR INTO A FOAMING FRENZY.
EPOT
OR
IMAGINE: AS MAYOR YOU'LL HAVE THE EAR OF THE MEDIA. WOMEN...
YOU DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN, MAX. ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE MAYOR.
BURN, BABY, BURN!



A TELLER MACHINE EXPLODED.
THE ICE RINK WAS TORCHED.
AND NOW THE TWELFTH PRECINCT REPORTS OFFENSIVE GRAFFITI AND A PHARMACY HEIST.
LOVE TO GET MY FLIPPERS DIRTY. BUST SOMEONE'S SKULL. EAT SOMEONE'S PET.
BUT, ACTION MUST BE BALANCED WITH DISCRETION...
AN ORGY OF SEX AND VIOLENCE?
COUNT ME IN, MISS KITTY.
THE STREETS OF GOTHAM--
--WHERE TONIGHT THE RED TRIANGLE GANG EXPANDS THEIR REIGN OF TERROR...
THAT'S IT. TAKE WHATEVER YOU--WHAT? OH NO!
H-HIM!


CLAK
WAP!
KONK!
KRAK!
TWIP!
BONK!
OOPHFF!
GRRRRRR
HRUMF?!
HUHHGG!
WUP!


I'LL BLOW UP THIS WHOLE--
SHRAK
THOK!
FWOOM
ADMIRING YOUR HANDIWORK?
TOURING THE RIOT SCENE. GRAVELY ASSESSING THE DEVASTATION.
MAYOR STUFF.
YOU'RE NOT THE MAYOR.
THINGS CHANGE.
HEY, GOOD TO MEET YOU. WE'LL BE WORKING HAND IN GLOVE IN GOTHAM'S GLORIOUS FUTURE.
ONCE YOU WERE THEIR FREAK. NOW THESE CLOWNS WORK FOR YOU.
MUST FEEL PRETTY GOOD.
WHAT'RE YOU REALLY AFTER?


SHRECK'S
AH, THE DIRECT APPROACH. I ADMIRE THAT IN A MAN WITH A MASK.
BUT YOU DON'T REALLY THINK YOU'LL WIN--?
THINGS CHANGE.
MEOW.
KRA-BOOOOMM


FWUMP!
I SAW HER FIRST.
GOTTA FLY.
WRRRRRRRRRRRR
SHRECK'S
WHERE'S THE FIRE?
IN SHRECK'S STORE. YOU SET IT.
KRAK!
WAPP
HOW COULD YOU?
I'M A WOMAN!
I'M SORRY. I--



OOFFF!
WHUD!
WHIPPPP
AS I WAS SAYING...
GOOD JOKE. WANNA HEAR ANOTHER ONE?
A MAN DRESSED AS A BAT IS A HE-MAN, BUT A WOMAN DRESSED AS A CAT IS A SHE-DEVIL.
I'M JUST LIVING DOWN TO MY EXPECTATIONS. LIFE'S A WITCH--
NOW SO AM I.
I'M A WOMAN AND CAN'T BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. ARE YOU LISTENING?
HANGING ON EVERY WORD.
I CAN'T SLEEP LATELY. A LINK BETWEEN US. YOU LIVE TO PRESERVE THE PEACE, I'M DYING TO DISTURB IT.
THAT COULD PUT A STRAIN ON OUR RELATIONSHIP.
SNAP!
MEOWWWWW!
FWOOSH


WHO ARE YOU?
WHO'S THE MAN BEHIND THE BAT?
MAYBE HE CAN HELP ME FIND THE WOMAN BEHIND THE CAT.
HMM-- THAT'S NOT HIM...
SCRATCH
AH, THERE YOU ARE --
AARGH!
NO--!


SAND.
SAVED BY KITTY LITTER!
SOME DATE.
SO IT'S NOT A CORSAGE, BUT A BURN LASTS SO MUCH LONGER...
JERK.
WITCH.
ALFRED, WOULD YOU BRING ME SOME ANTISEPTIC OINTMENT, PLEASE?
COMING. ARE YOU IN PAIN?
A BIT--BUT I DON'T REALLY MIND...
MEOW.
THE NEXT DAY:
TRUE, I MAY HAVE SAVED THE MAYOR'S BABY, BUT I REFUSE TO SAVE A MAYOR--
-- WHO STANDS BY HELPLESS AS A BABY WHILE GOTHAM IS RAVAGED...
MAYOR
...BY A DISEASE THAT TURNS HAPPY HOME-MAKERS INTO CATWOMEN.
THAT'S RIGHT-- OSWALD COBBLEPOT, THE MYSTERY MAN-BEAST ROMANCING GOTHAM, IS MAKING A BID TO RUN GOTHAM...


YOU'RE THE COOLEST ROLE MODEL A YOUNG PERSON COULD HAVE!
AND YOU'RE THE HOTTEST YOUNG PERSON A ROLE MODEL COULD HAVE... BUT I HAVE TO GO NOW.
PENGUIN. HEY, PENGUIN, THERE'S A--
MY NAMES NOT PENGUIN! IT'S OSWALD!
OSWALD... SOMEONE'S HERE TO SEE YOU.
WE NEED TO TALK. YOU SEE, WE'VE GOT SOMETHING IN COMMON.
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME--NAKED SEXUAL CHARISMA.
BATMAN. THE THORN IN BOTH OUR SIDES.
HIM AGAIN! WHAT IS IT WITH YOU TWO? HE'S ALREADY HISTORY...
WE'RE GONNA TURN HIS BATMOBILE INTO AN H-BOMB ON WHEELS. YESTERDAY'S VICTOR IS TOMORROW'S VAPOR.
HE'D HAVE MORE POWER AS A MARTYR. NO, TO DESTROY BATMAN WE MUST FIRST TURN HIM INTO WHAT HE HATES MOST. NAMELY US.
Y'MEAN FRAME HIM?
YOU GOT YOURSELF A DEAL, PUSS!
...AND SO I CHALLENGE THE MAYOR TO RE-LIGHT THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN GOTHAM PLAZA--
--TO PROVE WE CAN CARRY ON WITHOUT FEAR.
I JUST PRAY BATMAN WILL BE THERE TO PRESERVE THE PEACE.
SUBTLE.



THE TREE LIGHTS UP, I PRESS THE BUTTON.
NO, WAIT. I PRESS THE BUTTON AND--
WHO ARE YOU?
TALENT SCOUT.
COME IN! YOU KNOW, I DON'T JUST LIGHT TREES. I STUDIED THE *METHOD* BY *MAIL*, BUT--
OOH. IS THAT A CAMERA OR SOMETHING?
SAY CHEESE.
WAYNE MANOR. LATER THAT NIGHT...
...WE REPEAT, THE ICE PRINCESS HAS BEEN *KIDNAPPED!*
AND IT ONLY GETS *WORSE.* COMMISSIONER GORDON -- CAN YOU CONFIRM THE REPORTS OF BATMAN'S SUS-PECTED *INVOLVEMENT* IN THE ABDUCTION?
THE EVIDENCE IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL. WE FOUND THIS, *STAINED* WITH *BLOOD*--
SORRY, ALFRED, BUT THE PENGUIN WAS PRACTICALLY *BEGGING* ME TO SHOW.


"I HAVE TO GET TO THE PLAZA..."
KLAKKLAKKLA
COME ON--
"THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE."
CHUK!


CRASH
GOTTA HURRY. I WAS SET UP TO LOOK LIKE I DID THIS.
NO SWEAT. I'LL JUST TELL 'EM I WAS TAKEN BY AN UGLY BIRDMAN WITH FISH-BREATH.
DID SOMEONE SAY "FISH"?
YUMMY. I HAVEN'T BEEN FED ALL DAY.
GOTTA GO.
GIRL TALK. GUYS KEEP OUT!


THAT'S IT.
OKAY, CLOSE HER UP.
KLAKLAK AKLAKLAK
SHE--SHE LET ME GO. I THINK 'CAUSE I REASONED WITH HER, GIRL TO GIRL.
OKAY... JUST SLOWLY MOVE TOWARD ME--
--AWAY FROM THE EDGE...
LOOK OUT--
LAWN DART!
NOOOOO
NO! DON'T PANIC--!
GET 'EM OFF! GET 'EM AWAY FROM ME!!
AIIIEEEEE
LOOK! IT'S THE ICE PRINCESS!
AND BATMAN. OMIGOD--


BATMAN PUSHED THE ICE PRINCESS!
WHUMP
EEEK! THE TREE!
LOOK OUT! IT'S FULL OF BATS!
RUN!
RATS WITH WINGS...
...DO YER THINGS!
THERE HE IS!
WAIT--
NO, MEN! HOLD YOUR FIRE--!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!


UGHH
YOU'RE CATNIP TO A GIRL LIKE ME.
HANDSOME, DAZED AND TO DIE FOR.
A KISS UNDER THE MISTLETOE?
MISTLETOE CAN BE DEADLY, IF YOU EAT IT...
BUT A KISS CAN BE EVEN DEADLIER...
IF YOU MEAN IT.
YOU'RE THE SECOND MAN WHO KILLED ME THIS WEEK. I'VE GOT SEVEN LIVES LEFT.
BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD RETIRE.
SKRITCH
NO!
WHAT--!?



WHAT'S THAT!?
A GIANT BAT!
NO--IT'S HIM! HE CAUSED THIS!
CRASH
OUTSTANDING. YOU'RE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO SCARE THE ICE PRINCESS!
AND I KEPT MY WORD!
THE LADY LOOKED TERRIFIED.
SO WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S CONSUMMATE OUR FIENDISH UNION.
OH PLEASE. I WOULDN'T TOUCH YOU TO SCRATCH YOU.
YOU LOUSY MINX! YOU SENT OUT ALL THE SIGNALS!
HMMF. I DON'T THINK I LIKE YOU ANYMORE.
FLPPPP


AACK!
WUP WUP WUP WUP
GOODBYE, MY UNINTENDED. GO TO HEAVEN.
HAVE... TO BREAK...
FREE!
NO--!
KEEESH
AH, MY FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS. YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME--
OSWALD COBBLEPOT FOR MAYOR
-- I HAVE WORK TO DO.
SHIELDS OFF.



DON'T ADJUST YOUR SET!
PENGUIN!
WELCOME TO THE OSWALD COBBLEPOT SCHOOL OF DRIVING.
GENTLEMEN -- START YOUR SCREAMING!
ROARRRR!
MAYBE THIS IS A BAD TIME TO MENTION IT, BUT MY LICENSE HAS EXPIRED!
VROOM
OF COURSE, SO HAVE YOU!
DELI
LOOK OUT
HE'S GONE CRAZY!
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT HAVING A SWELL TIME, BUT LEMME TELLYA: MOWING DOWN INNOCENT PEOPLE--
RRRIPP
--AND LAYING THE BAD VIBES SQUARELY ON YOU... AH! FOR RAW THRILLS IT BEATS ANYTHING.
JUST RELAX AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE SQUEALING, WRETCHED, PINHEAD PUPPETS OF GOTHAM!
CRASH
HELPLESS LITTLE HONEY AT TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH.
VROOOMM
SMASH
SHRAKK!


SCREEECHH
HURRY! GET OUT OF HIS WAY!
HOMICIDUS INTERRUPTUS! I HATE THAT!
OH WELL, ONE LAST SPIN?
BUCKLE UP!
YOU GOTTA ADMIT, I'VE PLAYED THIS STINKING CITY LIKE A HARP FROM HELL!
KEESH!
SOMETHING'S WRONG. HE'S STOPPED.
BLAM BLAM
BAM
LET'S TAKE 'IM, THEN!
RRPPP
POW
POW
POW
SMASHH
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POW
103


THIS CLOSE TO A PERFECT EVENING!
WHAM!
THERE HE GOES!
VROOM
SPARK!
THAT'S FUNNY...
WE'VE GOT 'IM TRAPPED. HEY! WHERE'S HE GOING!?
HE'LL NEVER FIT!
NOW I'M A LITTLE WORRIED...
SPARK!
VROOOMM!
HOLY--! WILL YA!.. WAIT!
HOLD UP! HOLD UP!
CRASH!
POLICE
75


STOP
GOTHAM PLAZA, THE NEXT DAY...
...SO HE SURVIVED. C'MON, BE A MENSCH. STAND IT.
HE DIDN'T EVEN LOSE A LIMB, AN EYEBALL... BLADDER CONTROL...
SSSH. TIME FOR YOUR SPEECH.
MY FRIENDS, WHEN IT CAME TIME TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR CITY, DID THE MAYOR HAVE A PLAN?
NO, HE RELIED ON A MAN. A 'BAT' MAN.
A TICKING TIME BOMB OF A COSTUMED FREAK WHO FINALLY EXPLODED LAST NIGHT.
NOW, ALFRED.
FINDING FREQUENCY.
YOU ASK, AM I UP HERE FOR PERSONAL GLORY? NO, THE GLORY I YEARN TO RECAPTURE IS OF--
FREQUENCY JAMMED.
PLAY
CLIK!
--THE SQUEALING, WRETCHED, PINHEAD PUPPETS OF GOTHAM.
WAIT A SEC-- I DIDN'T SAY THAT!



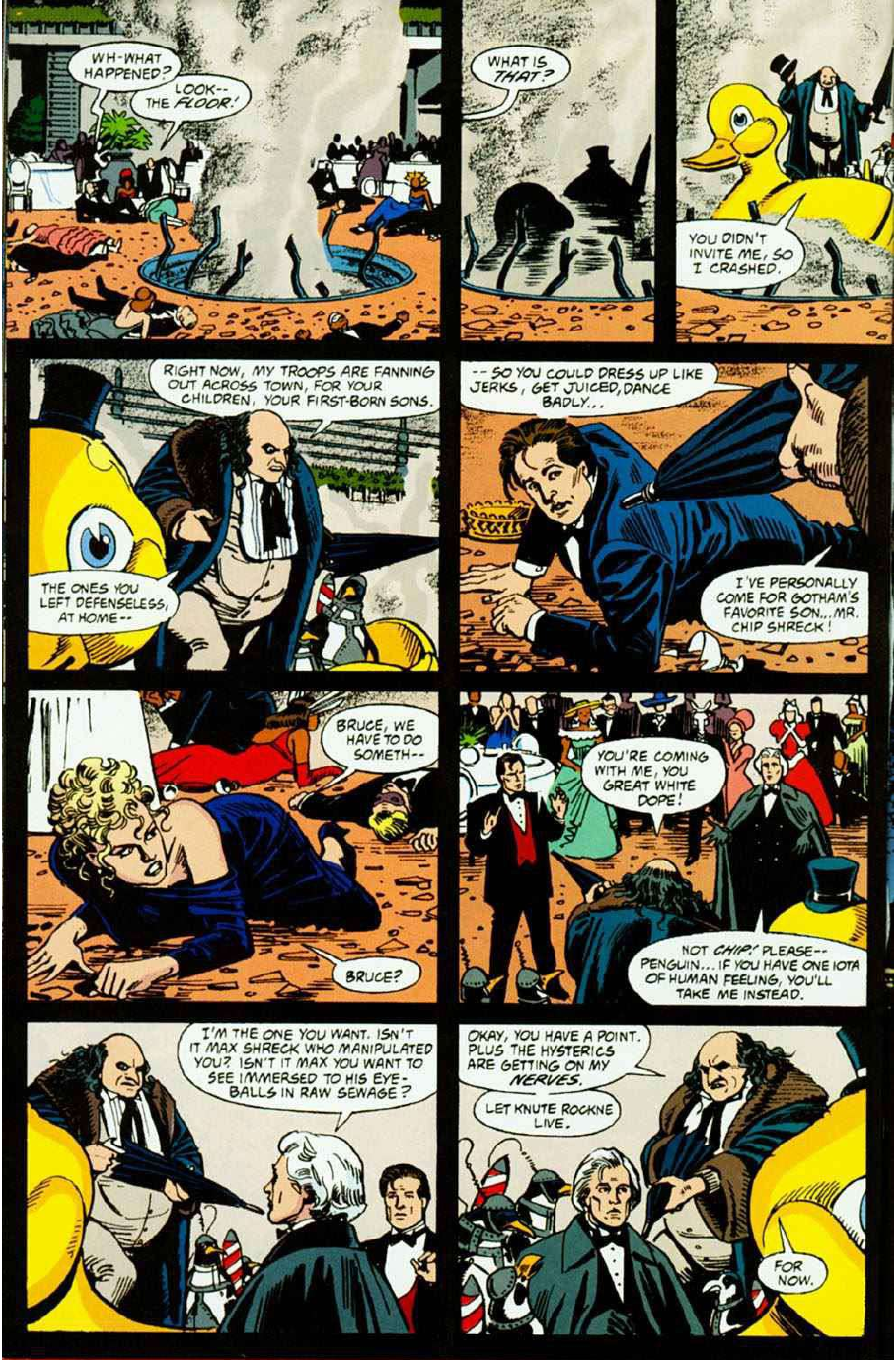
OSWALD MEANS ORDER
CAN CLEAN IT UP!
COBBLEPOT CAN CLEAN IT UP!
HEY!
BOO!
WHAT'S GOING ON, MAX!?
WHAT DID HE SAY!?
YOU GOTTA ADMIT, I'VE PLAYED THIS STINKING CITY LIKE A HARP FROM HELL!
I--I DON'T KNOW...
...THIS STINKING CITY...
...THIS STINKING CITY...
...THIS STINKING CITY...
WHY IS THERE ALWAYS--
--SOMEONE WHO BRINGS EGGS AND TOMATOES TO A SPEECH!?
OSWALD COBBLEPOT MAYOR
BOO!
GIDDOUT, YA' BUM!
BRRAP BRRAP
BRRAP
BRAP BRRAP
HE'S GETTING AWAY! STOP HIM!
HE WENT INTO THE PARK! AFTER HIM!
HUFF HUFF
GOT TO GET AW--
WAAGHHHHHHH


MY BABIES...DID YOU MISS ME?
GREAT SPEECH, OSWALD.
THE WAY YOU TOLD THOSE RUBES THE SCORE!
TOC!
MY NAME'S NOT OSWALD!
IT'S PENGUIN!
I AM NOT A HUMAN BEING. I'M AN ANIMAL. CRANK THE A.C.!
WHERE'S MY LIST? BRING ME THE NAMES!
IT'S TIME.
THESE ARE THE FIRST-BORN SONS OF GOTHAM CITY. LIKE I WAS. TONIGHT WHILE THEIR PARENTS PARTY WE WILL SNATCH THEM--
--AND TOSS THEM INTO A DEEP, WATERY GRAVE.
UMM, PENGUIN... I MEAN... KIDS? SLEEPING? ISN'T THAT A LITTLE--
BRAT-A TAT TAT
NOT, IT'S A LOT.
MR. WAYNE, A REMINDER: TONIGHT IS MR. SHRECK'S LOATHSOME COSTUME PARTY. MAY WE RSVP A RESOUNDING NEGATIVE?
WELL, IT IS A CELEBRATION AND... SELINA WILL PROBABLY BE THERE.
AH. AND "WHO" ARE YOU GOING "AS"?
YOU'LL NEVER GUESS.


ATTENTION, SHOPPERS!
LIKE THIS SPLENDID DEPARTMENT STORE...
...GOTHAM CITY CAN QUICKLY BOUNCE BACK FROM THE TUMULT OF THE PAST FEW DAYS.
SO DECK THE HALLS--
SHRECK'S
--AND SHAKE YOUR BOOTIES!
INGENIOUS COSTUME.
LET ME GUESS, TRUST-FUND GOODY-GOODY?
'COURSE YOU'RE FEELING FINE...
...YOU ALMOST MADE A MONSTER THE MAYOR OF GOTHAM.
I AM THE LIGHT OF THIS CITY. AND I AM ITS MEAN, TWISTED SOUL.
DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHO'S "MAYOR"?
YOU KNOW WHAT? IT DOES TO ME.
YAWN.
SELINA!
BRUCE--!
SO WHY'D YOU COME TONIGHT?
YOU FIRST.
TO SEE YOU.
THAT'S LOVELY AND I REALLY WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME, BUT I CAME FOR MAX.
YOU DON'T MEAN... YOU AND MAX--?
THIS AND MAX.



DON'T GIVE ME A KILLING-MAX-WON'T-SOLVE-ANYTHING SPEECH, BECAUSE IT WILL.
AREN'T YOU TIRED OF THAT SANCTIMONIOUS ROBBER BARON COMING OUT ON TOP? WHEN HE SHOULD BE SIX FEET UNDER?
HEY LOOK, I'M SURE YOU HAVE PLENTY OF REASONS TO HATE YOUR BOSS, BUT YOU'RE NOT JUDGE OR JURY. I MEAN... JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE, BRUCE...
A KISS UNDER THE MISTLETOE. MISTLETOE CAN BE DEADLY, IF YOU EAT IT...
...BUT A KISS CAN BE EVEN DEADLIER, IF YOU MEAN IT.
YOU'RE... HER?
YOU'RE... HIM?
THE BURN I GAVE YOU.
THE PUNCTURE WOUNDS I GAVE YOU.
OH, GOD, DOES THIS MEAN WE HAVE TO START FIGHTING NOW?
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
A DARLING COUPLE.
I DON'T KNOW. TILL WE FIGURE IT OUT, LET'S... LET'S KEEP DANCING.
YES, MADE FOR EACH OTHER.
WHOOM
AAARGH
LOOK OUT!


WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
LOOK-- THE FLOOR!
WHAT IS THAT?
YOU DIDN'T INVITE ME, SO I CRASHED.
RIGHT NOW, MY TROOPS ARE FANNING OUT ACROSS TOWN, FOR YOUR CHILDREN, YOUR FIRST-BORN SONS.
THE ONES YOU LEFT DEFENSELESS, AT HOME--
-- SO YOU COULD DRESS UP LIKE JERKS, GET JUICED, DANCE BADLY...
I'VE PERSONALLY COME FOR GOTHAM'S FAVORITE SON... MR. CHIP SHRECK!
BRUCE, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETH--
BRUCE?
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, YOU GREAT WHITE DOPE!
NOT CHIP! PLEASE-- PENGUIN... IF YOU HAVE ONE IOTA OF HUMAN FEELING, YOU'LL TAKE ME INSTEAD.
I'M THE ONE YOU WANT. ISN'T IT MAX SHRECK WHO MANIPULATED YOU? ISN'T IT MAX YOU WANT TO SEE IMMERSED TO HIS EYE-BALLS IN RAW SEWAGE?
OKAY, YOU HAVE A POINT. PLUS THE HYSTERICS ARE GETTING ON MY NERVES.
LET KNUTE ROCKNE LIVE.
FOR NOW.


HERE WE GO, MAX.
LET'S MAKE SURE NO ONE FOLLOWS.
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
BLAMMO!
AAIEE
RUN!
ACK-- SMOKE!
COFF! COFF!
MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE STREETS OF GOTHAM, THE PENGUIN'S PLAN COMES TO BEAR...
"OOH, THIS IS GONNA BE GOOD.."


TO CUT DOWN A WHOLE CROP OF GOTHAM'S MOST PROMISING BEFORE THEIR PRIME.
HOW DO I LURE 'EM IN, YOU ASK?
A LITTLE "PIED PENGUIN" ACTION.
AND YOU GET TO WATCH THEM ALL SINK IN A DEEP PUDDLE OF YOUR INDUSTRIAL BY-PRODUCTS.
THEN YOU JOIN THEM.
TRAGIC IRONY OR POETIC JUSTICE?
YOU TELL ME.
FLOOP!
WOULD YA' HURRY UP LOADING THOSE KIDS ALREADY?
DISC
EEP!
WHAM!

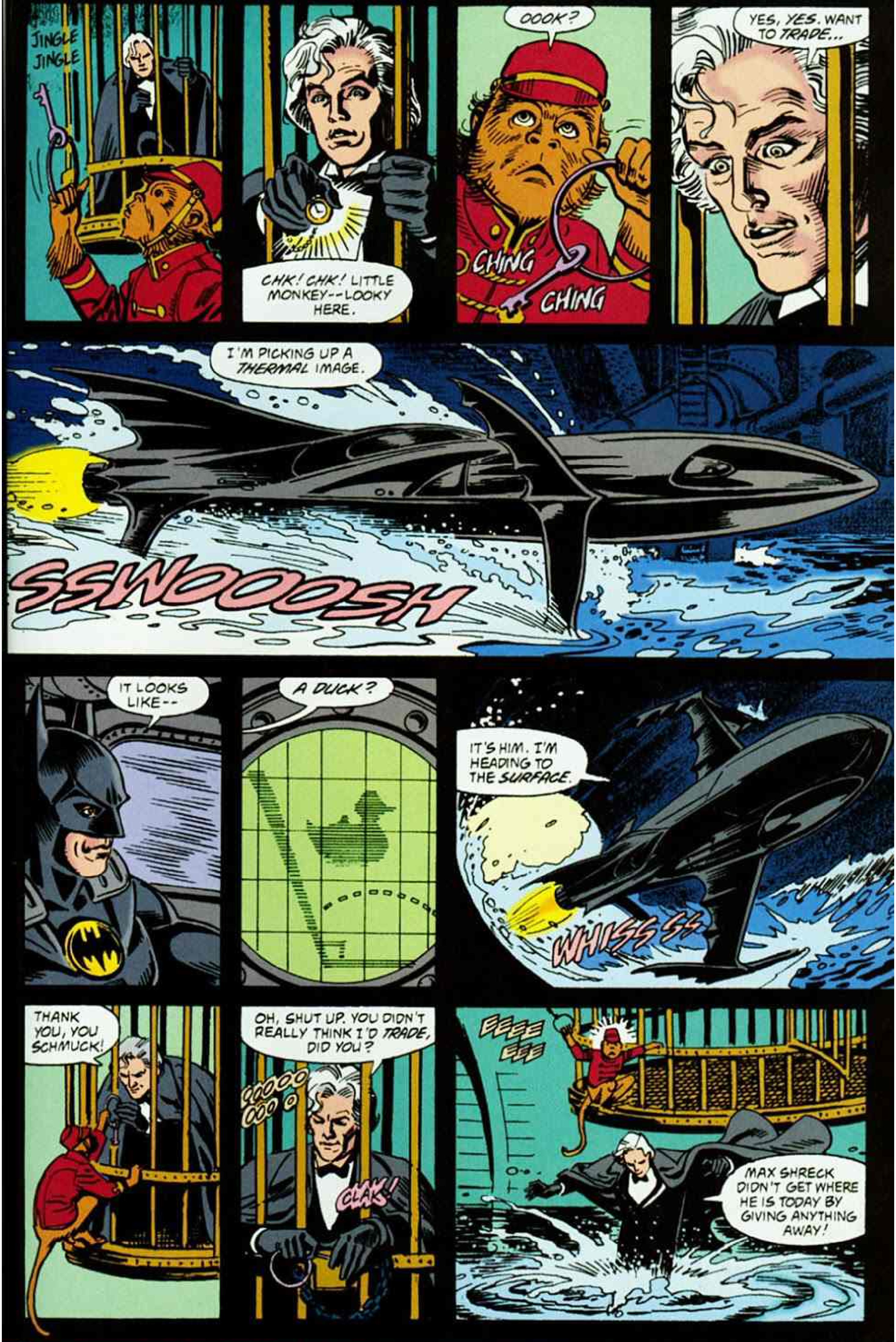

THIS WAY, KIDDIES...
JUMP RIGHT IN!
SO--WHERE'RE THE KIDS? DON'T TELL ME THEY STOPPED AT McDONALD'S...?
BOSS-- HE'S GOT A NOTE!
"DEAR PENGUIN: THE CHILDREN REGRET THEY'RE UNABLE TO ATTEND. HAVE A DISAPPOINTING DAY. BATMAN."
YOU'RE THE MESSENGER.
ACKK!
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO SHOOT THE MESSENGER.
AND SO...
MY PENGUINS... WE STAND AT A GREAT THRESHOLD. IT'S OKAY TO BE SCARED. MANY OF YOU WON'T BE COMING BACK.
THANKS TO BATMAN, THE TIME HAS COME TO PUNISH ALL GOD'S CHILLUN...
...FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH-BORN, WHY BE BIASED? MALE AND FEMALE.
HELL, THE SEXES ARE EQUAL BLOWN SKY HIGH!


"FORWARD, MARCH! THE LIBERATION OF GOTHAM HAS BEGUN!"
ARCTIC WORL
THE GRINCH JUST STOLE CHRISTMAS.
I'M GONNA KILL IT, BARBECUE IT, CHOP IT UP AND CHEW ITS BONES!
FFFFFWWWWWWWWWWWHOOSHH
I'M HOMING IN ON THE SIGNAL'S ORIGIN...
READY WHEN YOU ARE, SIR.


GOT THE COORDINATES. THEY'RE--
FWOOM
FWOOM
SSSSWISHH
BOOMM!
AS I WAS SAYING...
TEN, NINE...
THE CHRISTMAS EVE OF DESTRUCTION!
♫ Silent night, violent night... ♫
"ALL IS SHRILL--
"ALL IS BLIGHT..."
...28 DEGREES WEST. SHALL WE?
LET'S DANCE. SIR.
BZZZZZZZTTT
"FREQUENCY JAMMED."

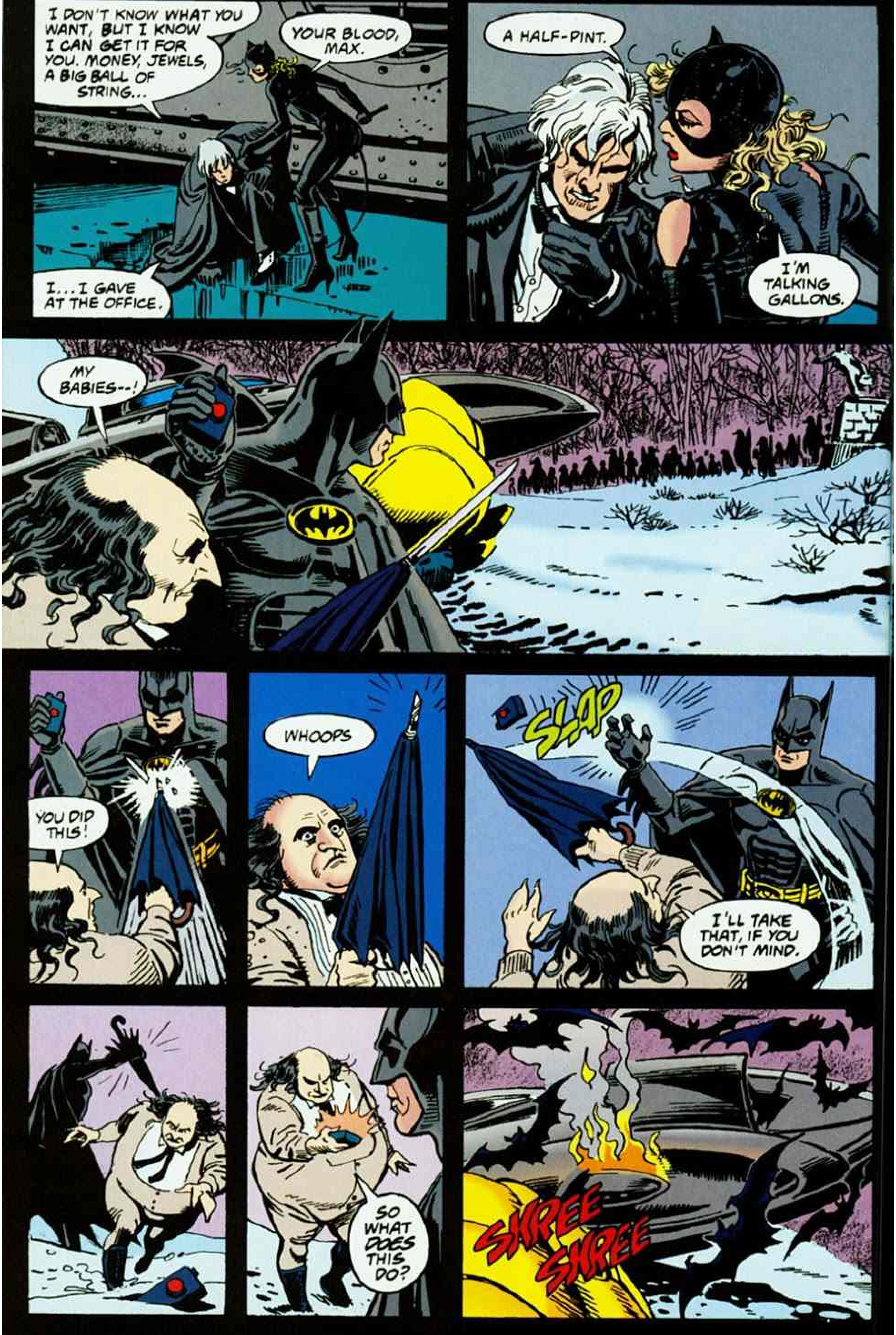


AH, GOTHAM. YOU WOULDN'T PUT ME ON A PEDESTAL, SO I'M LAYING YOU ON A SLAB!
WELL, UM... FUNNY THING, YOUR PENGUINS--
--THEY'RE NOT RESPONDING TO THE LAUNCH COMMAND.
FACT, THEY'RE KIND OF TURNED AROUND NOW... LIKE SOMEONE JAMMED OUR SIGNAL.
BUT WHO COULD'VE--
NO. DON'T SAY IT.
MY LIPS ARE SEALED.
I'M STARTING... JUST STARTING... TO LOSE MY TEMPER NOW.
RRRRR
TINKLE TINKLE
ZOO


JINGLE
JINGLE
CHK! CHK! LITTLE MONKEY--LOOKY HERE.
OOOK?
CHING
CHING
YES, YES. WANT TO TRADE...
I'M PICKING UP A THERMAL IMAGE.
SSWOOOSH
IT LOOKS LIKE--
A DUCK?
IT'S HIM. I'M HEADING TO THE SURFACE.
WHISSSS
THANK YOU, YOU SCHMUCK!
OH, SHUT UP. YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D TRADE, DID YOU?
CLAK!
EEEE EEE
MAX SHRECK DIDN'T GET WHERE HE IS TODAY BY GIVING ANYTHING AWAY!


HA HA HA
WHRRRR
ARCTIC WORL
WAUGHH!
WHOOM
SMASH!

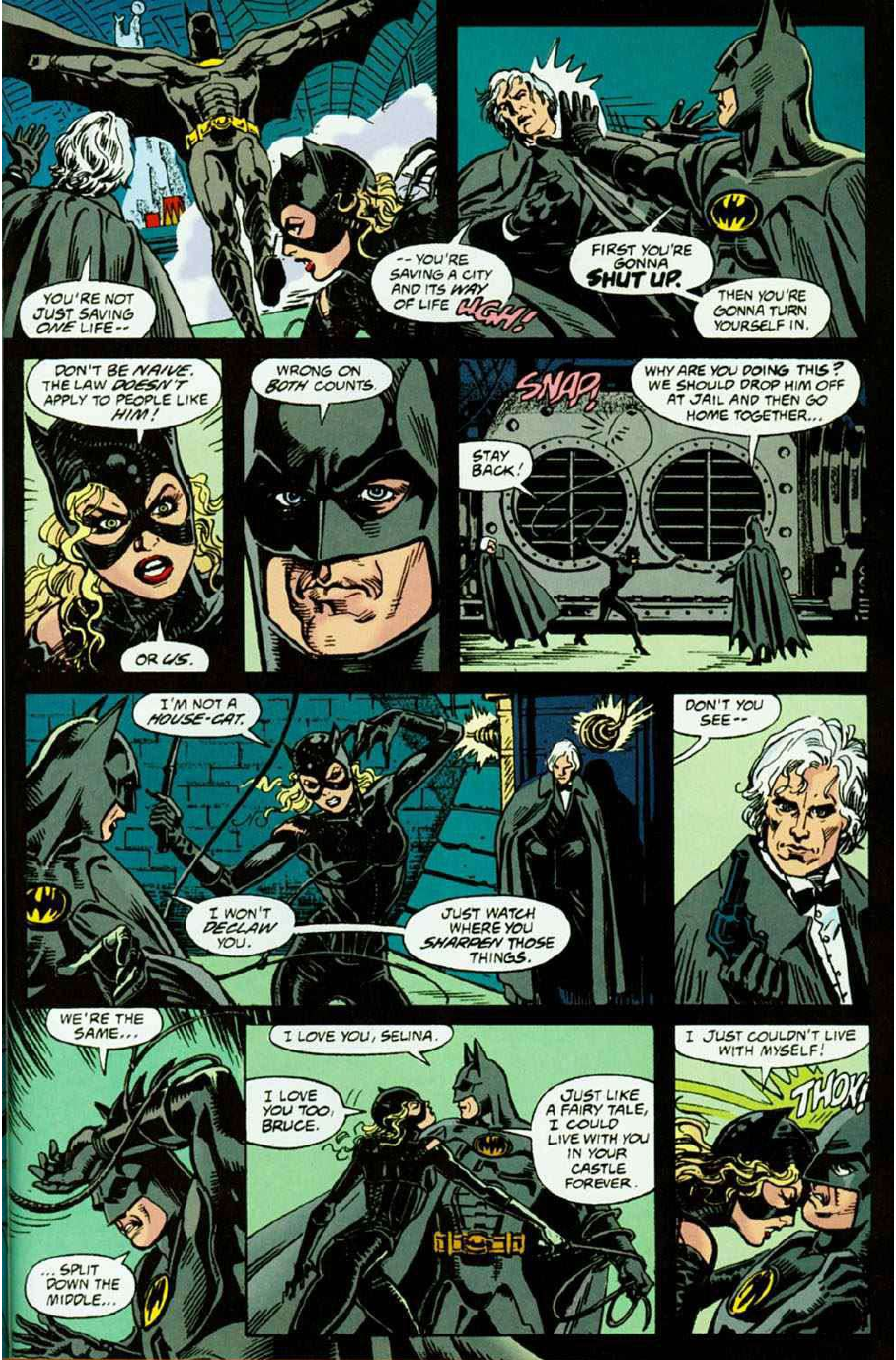

SNAP!
HELLO, MAX.
ARCTICWORLD
YOU!
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS.
JEALOUS THAT I'M A GENUINE FREAK--
--AND YOU HAVE TO WEAR A MASK!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT IN THE END ALL THAT COUNTS IS--
--WHO'S HOLDING THE UMBRELLA!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, BUT I KNOW I CAN GET IT FOR YOU. MONEY, JEWELS, A BIG BALL OF STRING...
YOUR BLOOD, MAX.
I... I GAVE AT THE OFFICE.
A HALF-PINT.
I'M TALKING GALLONS.
MY BABIES--!
YOU DID THIS!
WHOOPS
SLAP
I'LL TAKE THAT, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
SO WHAT DOES THIS DO?
SHREE
SHREE



AH, YOU BROUGHT YOUR IN-LAWS. I'M SURE ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM--
ARCTIC WORLD
CRASH
WWAUGGHHH
SPLASH!
ARCTIC WORLD
SELINA.
FWOOSHHH


KRA-BOOMMM
ZOO
LET'S MAKE A DEAL. OTHER THAN MY BLOOD, WHAT CAN I OFF--
SORRY, MAX.
A DIE FOR A DIE.
SNIKT!


YOU'RE NOT JUST SAVING ONE LIFE--
-- YOU'RE SAVING A CITY AND ITS WAY OF LIFE UGH!
FIRST YOU'RE GONNA SHUT UP.
THEN YOU'RE GONNA TURN YOURSELF IN.
DON'T BE NAIVE. THE LAW DOESN'T APPLY TO PEOPLE LIKE HIM!
OR US.
WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS.
SNAP!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WE SHOULD DROP HIM OFF AT JAIL AND THEN GO HOME TOGETHER...
STAY BACK!
I'M NOT A HOUSE-CAT.
I WON'T DECLAW YOU.
JUST WATCH WHERE YOU SHARPEN THOSE THINGS.
DON'T YOU SEE--
WE'RE THE SAME...
... SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE...
I LOVE YOU, SELINA.
I LOVE YOU TOO, BRUCE.
JUST LIKE A FAIRY TALE, I COULD LIVE WITH YOU IN YOUR CASTLE FOREVER.
I JUST COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF!
THOK!



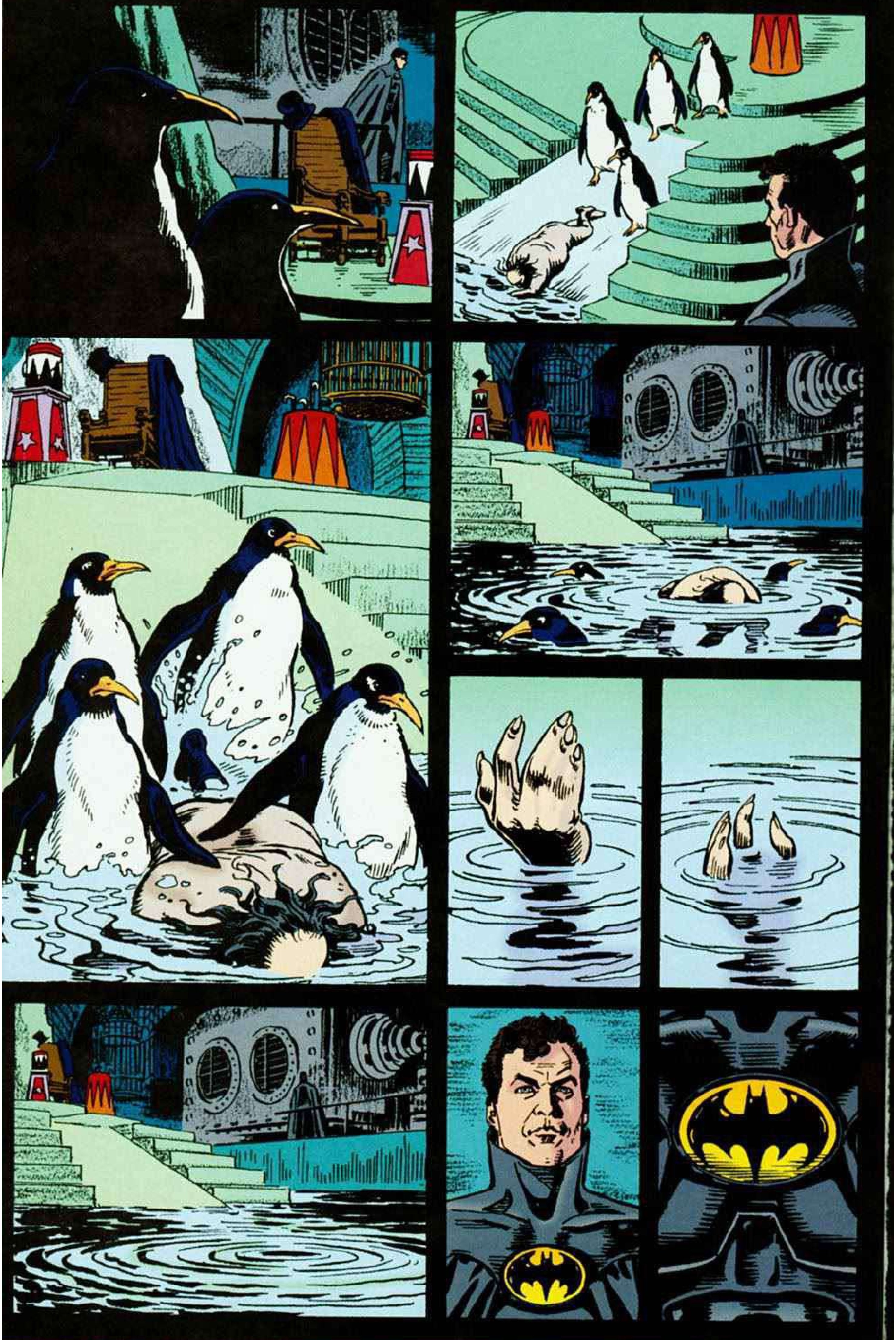
SELINA KYLE?
YOU'RE FIRED!
AND BRUCE? BRUCE WAYNE! BUT WHY ARE YOU DRESSED UP AS BATMAN!?
HE IS BATMAN, YOU MORON
WAS.
BLAM!
P-TING!
YOU KILLED ME, BATMAN KILLED ME, PENGUIN KILLED ME.
THREE LIVES DOWN.
GOT ENOUGH BULLETS TO FINISH ME OFF?
ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
BLAM!
UGH!
FOUR...
BLAM!
NGH!... FIVE...
STILL ALIVE.
I'VE BEEN SAVING THIS FOR YOU, MAX. I THINK YOU'LL GET A CHARGE OUT OF IT.
SELINA--?
SELINA...STOP!


BLAM!
SIX...
BLAM!
KRAKK
SEVEN... ALL GOOD GIRLS GO TO--
CLICK CLICK
EMPTY.
HMM, TWO LIVES LEFT.
THINK I'LL SAVE ONE FOR NEXT CHRISTMAS.
MEANTIME, HOW 'BOUT A KISS, SANTY CLAUS?
YOU'RE THE LIGHT OF GOTHAM CITY...?
WHAT'RE YOU--
SO BE THE LIGHT OF GOTHAM CITY!
SELINA!


HEY! WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS!
THE POWER'S OUT EVERYWHERE!
LOOK--OUTSIDE!
SELINA--?
BWA-HAHAHA
SE-LIN-A KYLE...
AND MAX.
BLOOP BLOOP
pant!
GOTTA CRANK THE A.C.

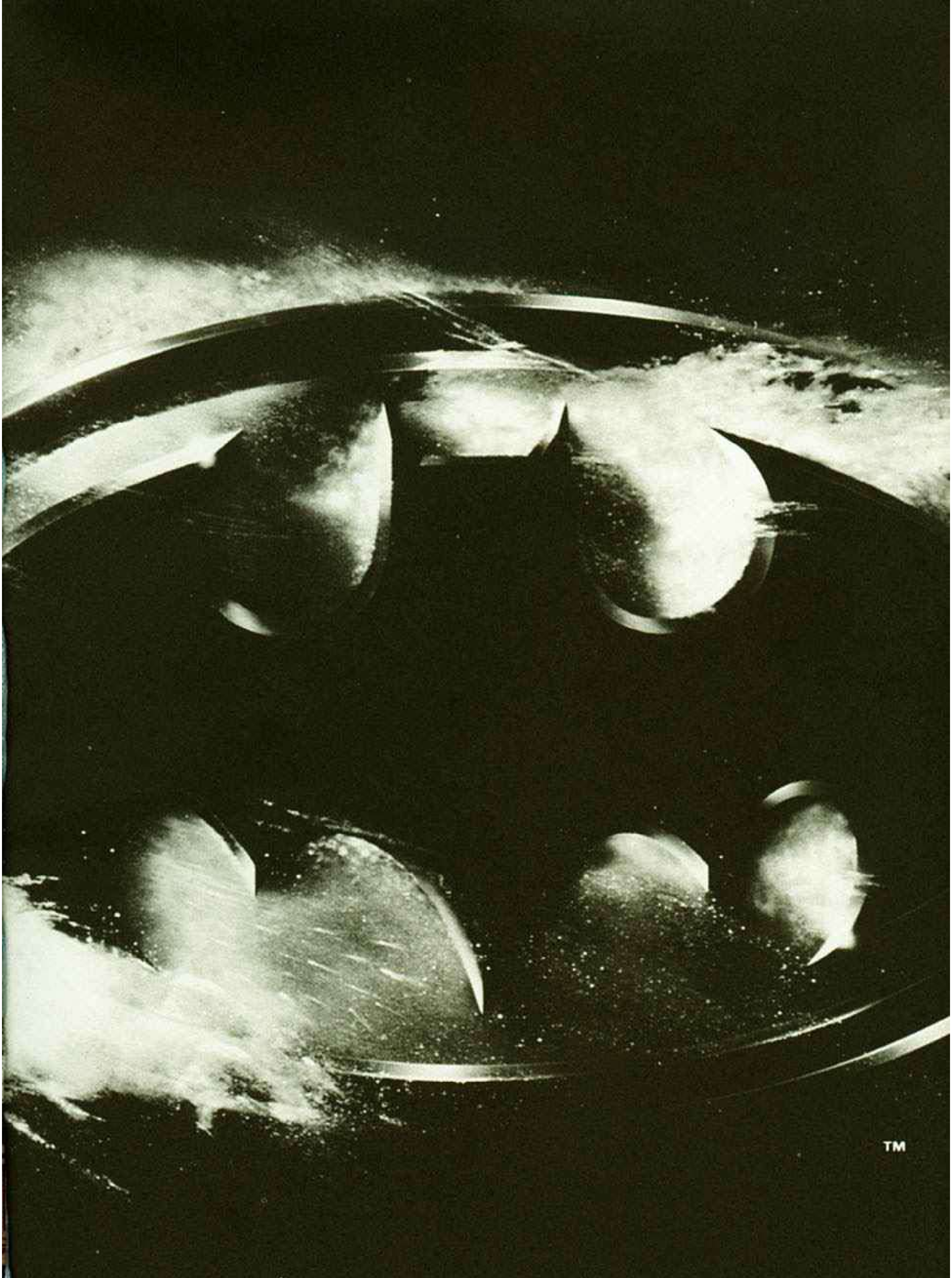


STUFFY IN HERE.
WHO--?
YOU KNOW, WITH-OUT THE MASK YOU'RE DROP-DEAD HANDSOME.
SO DROP DEAD!
FWOOP!
DAMN. PICKED THE CUTE ONE.
HEAT'S GETTIN' TO ME.
HEY, YOU-- YOU WOULDN'T BLOW AWAY AN ENDANGERED BIRD, WOULD YOU?
I'M OVERHEATED, IS ALL.
I'LL MURDER YOU--
--MOMENTARILY.
BUT FIRST... A COOL DRINK...
...OF ICE WATER...

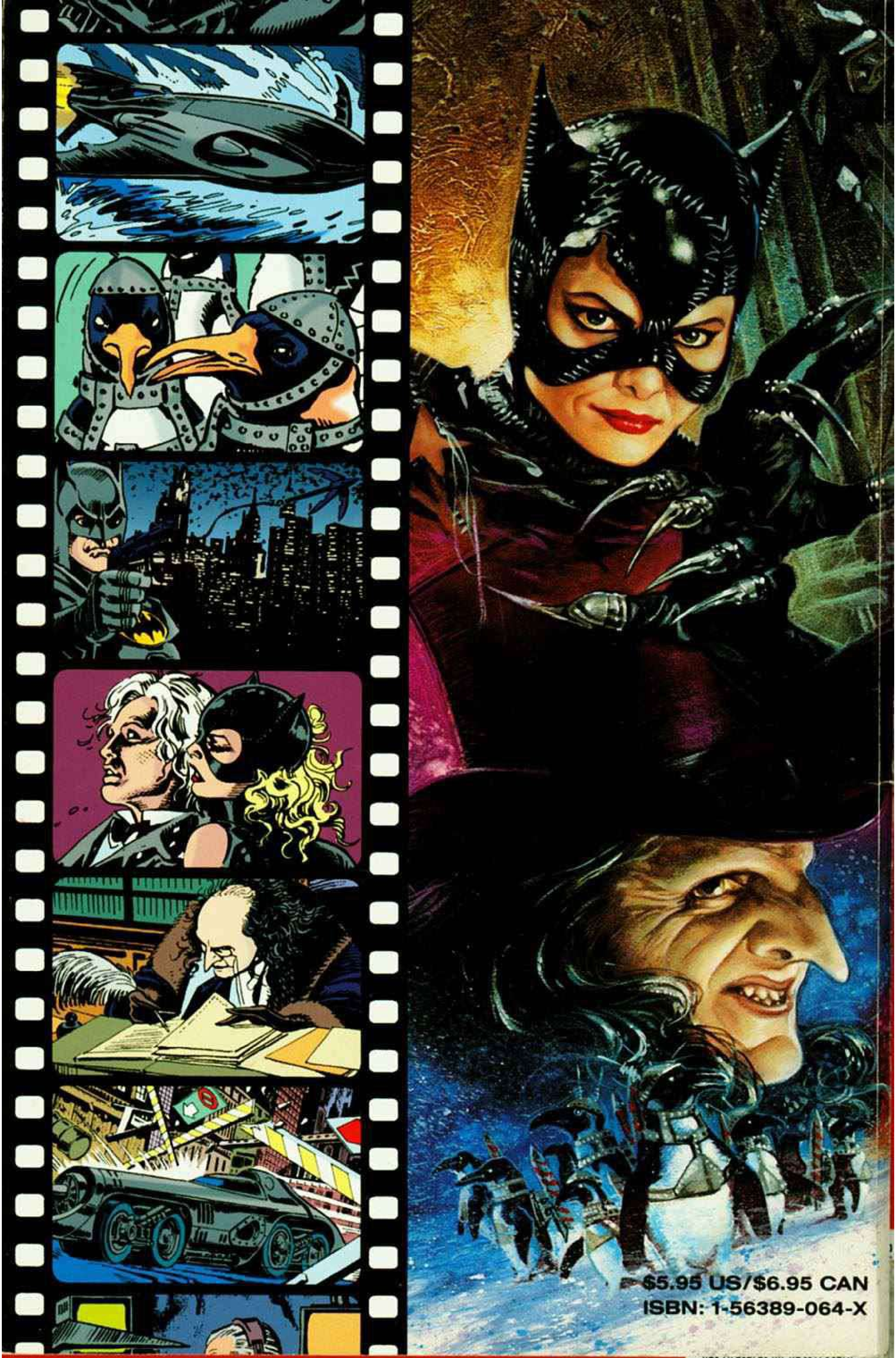



"SO THAT'S HOW IT ENDS."
THINK HE'LL EVER FORGIVE US?
PROBABLY NOT.
BUT HE'LL ALWAYS HELP US.
I-- I DIDN'T FIND HER. MAYBE...
YES.
MAYBE.
ALFRED! STOP THE CAR!
SIR?
THAT SHADOW--
IT WAS...
MEOWRR?


HMPF. YES, WELL--
COME WHAT MAY, MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. WAYNE.
RIGHT. SURE. AND "PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN."
AND WOMEN.



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